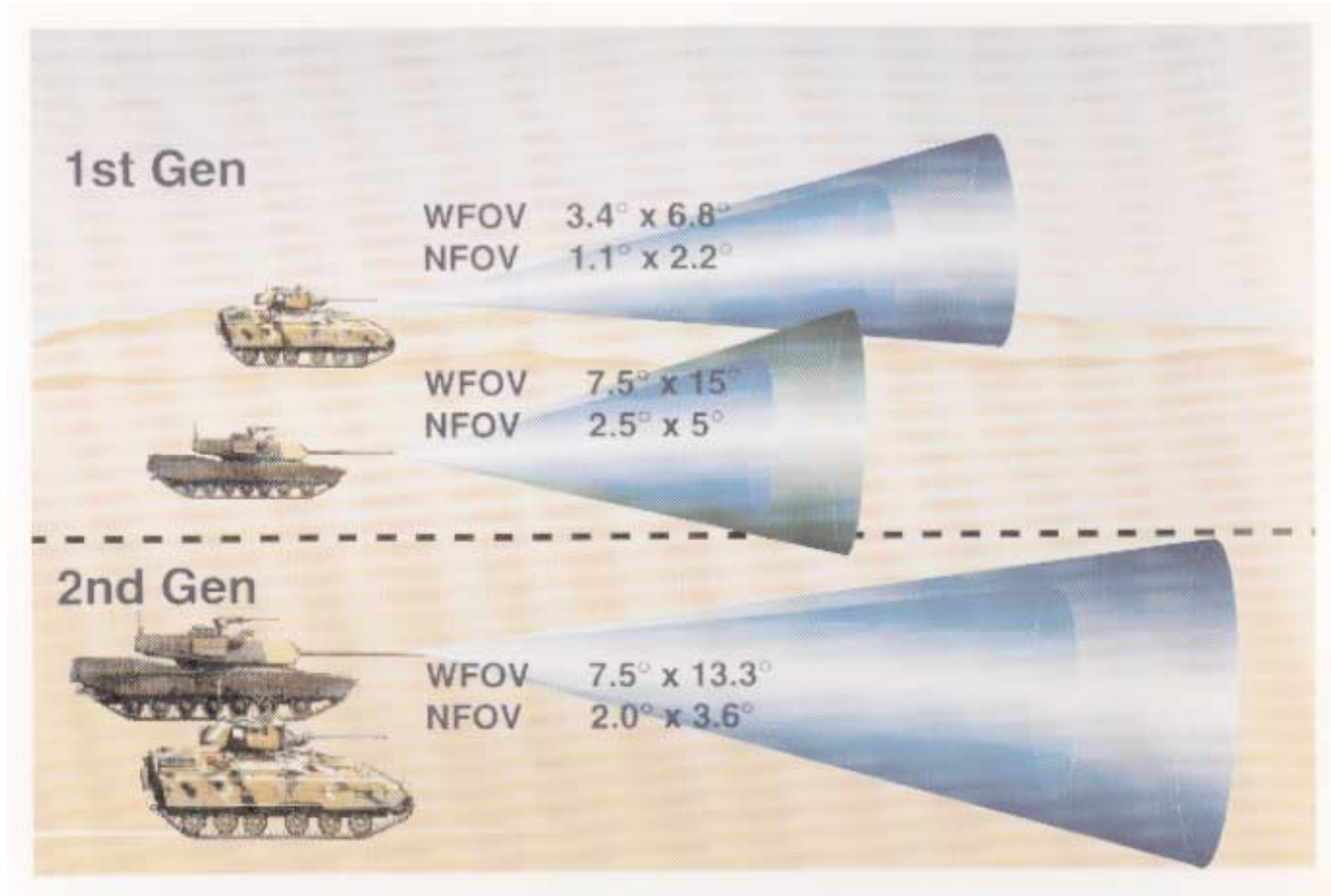


Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)



MISSION

Provide the M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank, M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System with a leap-ahead target acquisition capability during all atmospheric and obscurant conditions, as well as ability to see the same battlespace.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) is the Army's first major horizontal technology integration (HTI) program. One of the Army's key objectives in its quest to "own the night" is the integration of Second Generation FLIR technology into a number of new and existing platforms. One goal of this program is to develop and produce a common FLIR to maximize economies of scale during production and to minimize life cycle costs.

By using a common thermal sensor known as a B-Kit which can be integrated into any candidate platform, the user community will be able to see the same battlespace and achieve a broad overmatch to potential adversary capabilities. The linkage between the B-Kit and the perspective sights will be system-specific platform links called A-Kits.

The program initially upgraded two candidate platforms selected by Army leadership: the M1A2 and M2A3. The current platform sight applications include: M1A2 Gunner's Primary Sight, M1A2 Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer, M2A3 Improved Bradley Acquisition system, M2A3 Commander's Independent Viewer, the Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3), and the Line-of-Sight Anti-Tank (LOSAT) System. The HTI concept can also benefit other Army programs, such as the Apache and future armored vehicles.

The present system concept will allow adaptation of this common sensor to any new platform application desired by Army leadership. In addition, this system will provide a battlespace observation edge for U.S. forces well into the next century. Commonality of FLIRs in multiple platforms facilitates development and fielding of future upgrades, such as image fusion, automatic target recognizers, and target trackers.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

No known foreign counterpart

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

1QFY97 Approved to begin low-rate initial production (LRIP).

3QFY97 Awarded LRIP contracts.

1QFY98 Conduct Bradley limited user test (LUT) I.

3QFY98 First LRIP deliveries.

1QFY99 Conduct Bradley LUT II.

First M2A3 deliveries.

1QFY00 Successfully completed HTI SGF milestone III.

2QFY00 Awarded HTI SGF full-rate production contract.

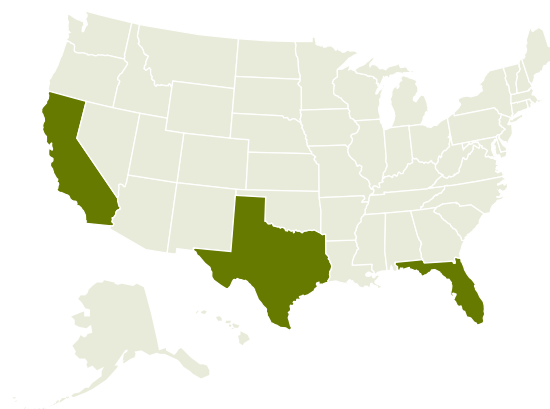
PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

4QFY00 Conduct M2A3 initial operational test and evaluation.

Conduct M1A2 SEP force development test and evaluation.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Raytheon (McKinney, TX); DRS Technology, Inc. (El Segundo, CA; Palm Bay, FL)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors



Project the Force



Protect the Force



Gain Information Dominance



Shape the Battlespace



Conduct Decisive Operations



Sustain the Force